

2.5 COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Goal 5 - Provide opportunities for effective civic involvement by individuals and organizations throughout the Planning Area.

The institutionalization and nurturance of social systems are critical to the success of the Planning Effort. The extent to which stakeholders communicate and work cooperatively will drive the implementation of strategies and actions to achieve goals and policies enunciated in this plan. Building community and creating a sense of community where it has been absent are fundamental objectives underlying the North District Neighborhoods' Planning effort.

Policies

P1. Maintain the open and inviting character of community councils and the North District Council so persons and organizations of the Planning Area will feel encouraged toward civic participation.

P2. Build on existing programs and resources, creating new programs or efforts only to fill gaps which existing programs and resources cannot fill.

Strategy 1: Formalize and publicize a comprehensive community network. Build connections and working relationships among residential, business and institutional segments within the Planning Area.

Actions:

- A. Require all City departments and agencies to invite the local community council to co-host any public meeting held within the boundaries of that community council.
- B. Require adequate notice (not less than 30 days) of any public meetings, including agendas of same.
- C. Create if necessary, and publish and publicize the City's notification protocol, public notices, meeting announcements, program information dissemination etc.
- D. Expand the Block Watch program to serve as a conduit for other community communication needs.
- E. Publish a directory showing areas of interest and responsibility, methods of communication and purpose/objectives of each community organization.
- F. Coordinate communication efforts so similar messages are conveyed via various media (e.g. kiosks, community web site, local press, flyers, mailers, telephone trees, e-mail, etc.).
- G. Re-invigorate the North District Council, encouraging a wide variety of organizations to be represented there (e.g. civic, social, faith-based, recreational, business and professional).

- H. Create a community stewardship organization whose members represent both residents and businesses in the area, that will coordinate the recruitment of new employers and businesses to the area, execute needed improvements for Lake City, and carry out the implementation of the neighborhood plan as it relates to Lake City. This organization will be a member of the North District Council.
- I. Create a Lake City Arts Council, charged with developing a plan to develop a targeted arts program for the area. Incorporate the program into Design Review guidelines.
- J. Provide a centralized, accessible and modern community center/gathering space.
- K. Form a joint citizens committee to discuss mutual problems for the future improvement of Lake City.

Strategy 2: Create a strong sense of community and individual involvement and responsibility for the good of the community.

Actions:

- A. Create pleasant gathering places that encourage interactions.
- B. Plan periodic community events to increase community participation and face to face meetings of individuals within the community, and introduce, educate, and celebrate cultural diversity and interests.
- C. Perform outreach efforts into communities to encourage participation and gather feedback on how proposed actions would be received. Modify proposed plans as necessary to meet the needs of each community affected.
- D. Encourage and promote regular neighborhood trash patrols on busy street corners or often-polluted areas. Work with local businesses to encourage a regular trash patrol.

2.6 PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Goal 6 - Create the perception and reality of security and safety throughout the Planning Area.

Personal safety and property protection for the citizenry are primary goals for the community. Crime and Safety strategies create a filter through which all other plans must pass to ensure that community safety is not compromised, and crime does not flourish.

The Chamber of Commerce Crime & Safety Task Force has already implemented many actions and programs that are benefiting the community. A graffiti removal program and a nightly citizen patrol in areas of concern are two examples. Our goal is to expand upon these efforts.

Policies

PI. Give priority to programs and facilities that effectively address causes and prevention of crime and public safety problems.

- P2. Use design standards to ensure pedestrian and bicycle ways are safe to use.
- P3. Use environmental design techniques to reinforce crime prevention.
- P4. Provide the highest levels of fire protection to all places within the Planning Area.
- P5. Identify and remedy known crime problems as they develop.

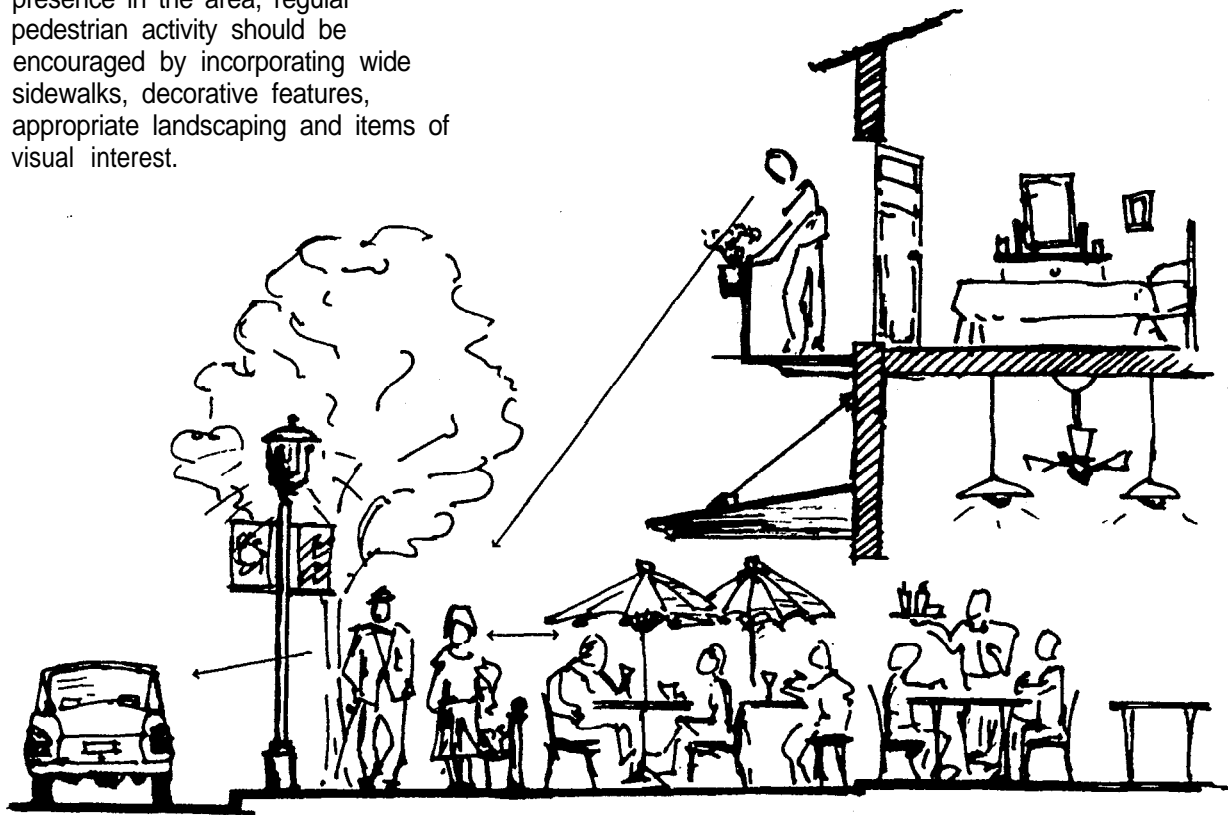
Strategy 1: Create a Crime & Public Safety Council. Take action to bring together and coordinate the efforts of all concerned groups to improve crime prevention and public safety.

Actions:

- A. Include on the Council all organized neighborhood groups. Encourage organization of a new group within each neighborhood.
- B. Enhance citizen self-reliance in preventing crime through related skill building and involvement in specific activities, such as Block Watch, graffiti clean up and community maintenance.
- C. Create education and training for residents and business owners in how to prevent, report and deal with specific crimes.
- D. Involve apartment owners and managers in drug activity prevention strategies, tenant screening training, and reporting of disruptive tenants.
- E. Address opportunities for crime problems caused by any look of deterioration in the business district, gaps in business storefronts or look of abandonment.
- F. Plan and implement community activities that introduce, educate and celebrate cultural diversity and interests.
- G. Extend the residential Block Watch Program. Achieve 100% coverage.
- H. Create a Block Watch program for apartment buildings and businesses.
- I. Involve apartment owners and managers in drug activity prevention strategies.
- J. Develop local problem-solving teams of both residents and business owners to work on crime-related problems.
- K. Involve Apartment Association in tenant screening training and reporting of disruptive tenants as a major tool for combating crime in residential areas.
- L. Encourage through advertising that citizens attend the Community Police Academy to learn useful techniques for working on crime-related problems.
- M. Educate the community about the interconnectedness of the drug problem.
- N. Develop a community juvenile offenders diversion group.

Crime Prevention Design Ideas

So that there is always a visible presence in the area, regular pedestrian activity should be encouraged by incorporating wide sidewalks, decorative features, appropriate landscaping and items of visual interest.



Parking areas should be visible from pedestrian spaces and **adjacent** buildings.

To allow visibility between public and private spaces, landscaping should be trimmed out of sight lines and **mid-level** lighting should be installed.

Ground level and above-ground spaces should orient windows, doorways and **balconys** toward the sidewalk to connect buildings to the exterior and to allow one to watch activity on the street.

Strategy 2: Develop pedestrian corridors and key pedestrian streets to encourage “eyes on the street” so problems will be noticed quickly and pedestrian safety access is assured. Actions:

- A. Maintain a clean and orderly appearance to indicate this is a community that is watchful and cares about what happens to the people and property within its boundaries.
- B. In addition to improved street lighting, improve night lighting around and between buildings, along alleys, inside public spaces.
- C. To help reduce opportunities for criminal activity, restructure on-street and on-street parking from disorder to order to improve visibility in parking areas and around parked cars throughout the Planning Area, with special attention given to areas with concentrations of apartment buildings.

Strategy 3: Require use of design guidelines that emphasize Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Actions:

- A. Require all new buildings to have apartment windows facing the street.
- B. Require each apartment unit have its windows facing in at least two directions to increase visibility of the unit’s immediate neighborhood.
- C. Require that all exterior and interior public spaces of multi-family buildings be well lit.
- D. Require main entries to multi-family buildings be visible from the street.
- E. Place a top priority for sidewalks, curbs, gutters and street-side parking conditions on multi-family housing units.
- F. Place a top priority on installation of night lighting on public sidewalks for multi-family housing units.
- G. Provide on-site, underground parking for all multi-family housing units and mixed-use buildings instead of on-street parking.
- H. Require private developers to install curbs, gutters, sidewalks and street and human-scale sidewalk lighting as part of any multi-family development.
- I. Increase police patrols throughout multi-family areas during the night.
- J. Encourage development of ground accessible units.
- K. Improve the image and appearance of Lake City to reduce opportunity for crime problems caused by a look of deterioration or abandonment in the business district.
- L. Interact with the Design Review Board as design relates to safety issues.
- M. Identify and correct community physical features that aid or encourage criminal activity.
- N. Consult with the SPD in design of new developments.

Strategy 4: Identify sites that cause or contribute to crimes against persons and/or property. Implement measures to eradicate specific crime problems that have been identified as concerns in the Planning Area including car prowls, burglary, prostitution and drug activity, which moves from one area to another to avoid detection. Create an atmosphere of safety, as crime is perceived to be the biggest threat to economic and residential success in Lake City.

Actions:

- A. Work with the Seattle Vice Department and the Task Force to inventory sites that contribute to opportunities for crime.
- B. Map Areas of Concern based on criteria describing situations that cause problems for personal safety and criminal activity, such as dark corners, unlighted parks, topless nightclubs, etc.
- C. Mitigate apartment areas where buildings are long, narrow and perpendicular to the street, with no residential windows to view street activities.
- D. Identify apartment areas that are so distant from public amenities and social services that youth hang out in the street. Provide appropriate social services and youth outreach.
- E. Rectify apartment areas that are not served by sidewalks, adequate street lighting and orderly on-street parking against the curb, all of which create dark and hidden pockets.
- F. Improve lighting and supervision of large commercial parking lots to deter criminal behavior.
- G. Light service sides of businesses and apartments with inadequate lighting and street visibility.
- H. Correct public spaces that have poor visibility from the street.
- I. Require video surveillance of locations of known criminal activity. Develop a local Policing Center location where residents, business people and the SPD can meet to work on problems.
- J. Encourage and train community volunteers to assist the SPD with priority projects in the community.
- K. Provide continued vigilance by the Task Force, eyes-on-the-street, regarding drug activity, appearance of gangs, graffiti, vandalism, car and house prowling.
- L. Develop community program to report drug activity as soon as it is seen, in order to monitor drug movement from one area to another.
- M. Provide more patrol car visits.
- N. Lobby to enact legal measures to take profits out of drug dealing.
- O. Clean up, paint-out graffiti within 24 hours.
- P. Require demolition of condemned structures within 3 months of condemnation.

Strategy 5: Provide effective levels of police protection and enforcement to all places within the Planning Area.

Actions:

- A. Develop a partnership with **the Police** Department for sharing responsibility maintaining order and preventing crime in the Planning Area.
- B. Ensure regular visible police presence in all areas of the community and more often in areas designated "areas of concern."
- C. Ensure speed limits are enforced.
- D. At problem intersections, **mount** cameras on traffic stop to catch delinquent drivers threatening pedestrian safety. Implement measures to correct **speed** or pedestrian visibility problems.

Strategy 6: Provide the highest levels of fire protection to all places within the Planning Area.

Actions:

- A. Ensure the local fire station has adequate equipment to protect the **community**.
- B. Upgrade fire fighting capacity and facilities to meet growth anticipated over 15 years.

2.7 NATURAL SYSTEMS

Goal 7 - Preserve and improve the area's watershed, green areas and habitat corridors.

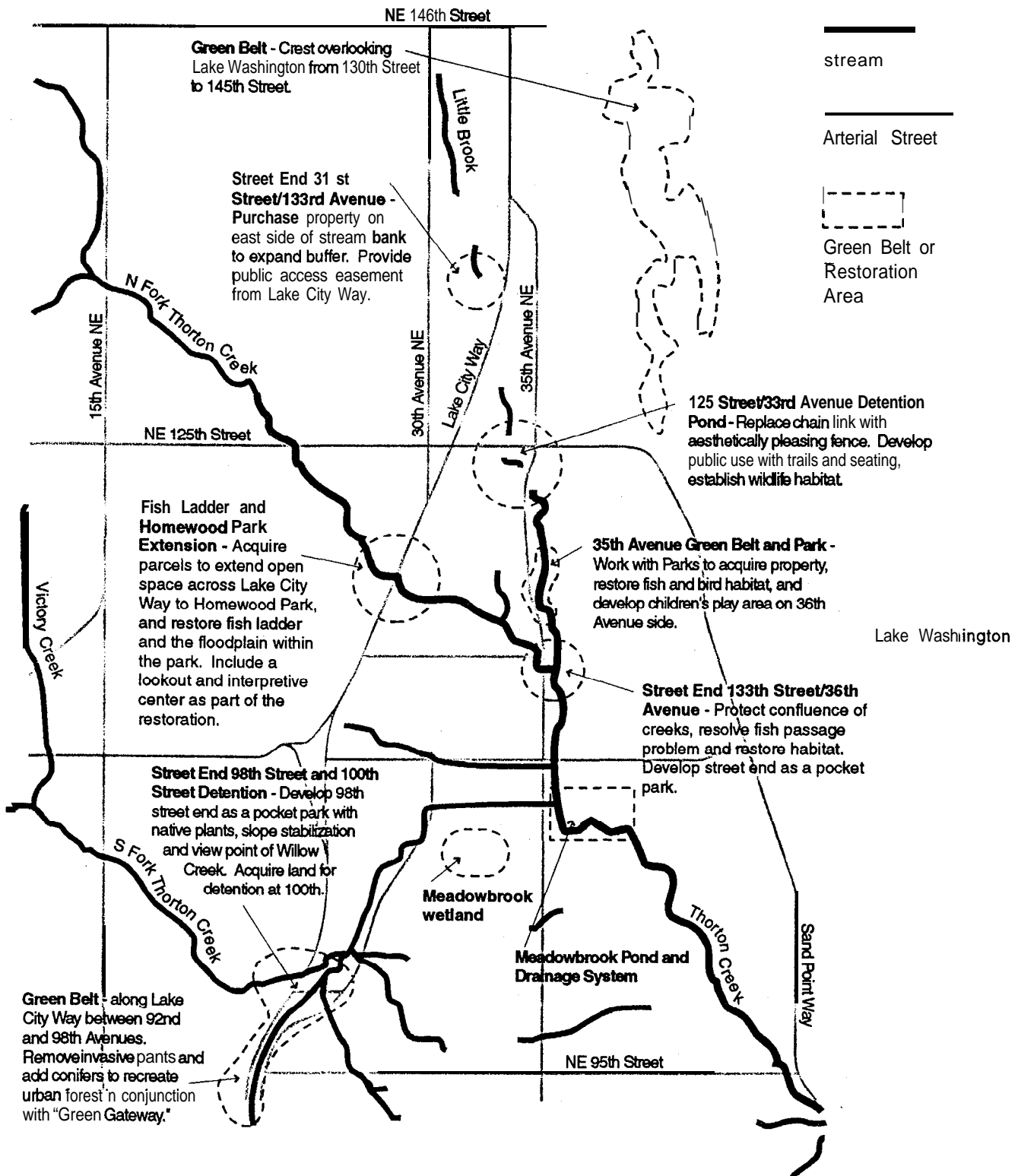
The North District Neighborhoods' Planning Area lies within the Thornton Creel watershed, the largest natural drainage system in the Seattle area. The many efforts of citizens and business and property owners over the past decade **have** begun to establish models for the care of natural systems, especially water systems like Thornton Creek. These efforts have been able to restore habitat, reduce public infrastructure costs, mitigate the impacts of development, prevent pollution **and** create places for the enjoyment of the public. This plan, aiming to building on these efforts, makes specific recommendations to preserve, restore, improve, maintain and protect the many natural features of the Thornton Creek watershed.

Policies

PI. Prevent degradation of natural systems.

P2. Avoid all land-use actions that negatively effect sensitive ecosystems and natural systems. Where avoidance is not possible, employ the most effective natural mitigation method possible.

Natural Systems



See Appendix 4.6 for additional parks and open space improvements.

P3. Encourage and support businesses and industries that employ sound environmental practices. P4. Assure the protection and security of the rights of landowners in all efforts to enhance or preserve open space and natural systems including, for example, the purchase of sensitive sites. Strategy 1: Use local successes in environmental restoration and protection as a foundation for further efforts. These successes include reduced dumping/disposal in streams, prevent development on steep slopes, and protecting riparian corridors along stream banks.

Actions:

- A. Identify deficiencies and threats to local natural systems (watersheds, greenbelts, habitat corridors, etc.) in the Planning Area.
- B. Identify and undertake, based on a whole-system approach, appropriate mitigation efforts to correct identified deficiencies. Utilize advances in remediation technologies and research wherever possible.

Strategy 2: Protect natural systems from adverse impacts of development and encourage integration of natural features in new development.

Actions:

- A. Rather than allowing surface runoff, employ design standards that encourage natural water filtration, such as bioswales, and recharge of ground water as far as possible to the entry point of contaminants into watersheds.
- B. Demand compliance and strengthen policies and requirements concerning development near critical sensitive areas.
- C. Through public process, establish special environmental overlay protection areas, where appropriate, to protect environmentally critical areas and sensitive ecosystems, including stream corridors.
- D. Preserve, protect and enhance existing wetland and riparian areas and 'dead' streams and creeks wherever possible.
- E. Permit conditional uses in planned new developments that enhance the natural environment, maintain a balanced urban ecology and protect and prevent impacts to critical areas.
- F. Promote habitat and native plant enhancement in sensitive areas.
- G. Through design guidelines, promote use of native species plants that are tolerant of drought, maintenance free and attractive.
- H. Coordinate local stream restoration efforts between state fish habitat recovery programs and local organizations.
- I. Establish funding mechanisms and programs that can support acquisition, protection and management/maintenance of important natural features.
- J. Remediate steep slopes with bioengineering techniques whenever possible.
- K. Establish local environmental education and awareness programs in conjunction with a community environmental stewardship program to protect confluences and outlets of local streams and remove trash from streams and riparian zones.

- L. Repair and re-establish riparian and wetland systems on public property, including but not limited to: **Homewood** Park and upstream fish habitat; the south fork channel in the **Ravenna/Blindheim** natural area at NE 100th; the Willow Creek tributary flowing along the east side of Lake City Way between NE 95th and NE 98th; and the Last Open Space at 140th and 32nd.
- M. Seek ways to acquire property or work with property owners to repair and re-establish riparian and wetland systems (e.g. on the North Fork of Thornton Creek, fish ladder restoration and channel east of Lake City Way at NE 1 17th; on the South Fork, floodplains/wetland/channel in parcels adjacent to Lake City Way between NE 98th and NE 100th; on Little Brook Creek on 35th Avenue NE between 11 7th and 1 20th; at the Maple School site at 1 00th and 32nd; and at the closed culvert crossing under 1 5th Avenue NE at NE 1 30th Street).

2.8 OPEN SPACES

Goal 8 - Provide parks, public recreation facilities and community areas that are safe. clean. multi-use wherever Possible. and responsive to local needs.

The North District Neighborhoods' Planning Area is endowed with many mature trees and has some significant vegetation corridors; however, on the whole, our community is deficient in quantity, quality, and variety of protected natural resources. Developed open spaces, such as parks, recreation facilities, street trees, public gathering spaces and pea-patches are sorely lacking North of NE 125th Street.

In recent years, a lot of work has been done by local environmental groups to improve this area. Community efforts, combined with those of municipal agencies, have resulted in several new parks and drainage facilities.

Now we are ready to look carefully at our entire system of parks, openspace and natural systems. Our goal is to weave these resources together so they inter-connect and respond to natural laws as well as human needs.

The proposed plan recognizes our current under-met needs, anticipates future needs to meet the expected growth in population, and works to accommodate both in a rational way.

Lake City and the surrounding neighborhoods, because of the abundance of natural features, have the opportunity to be an environmental steward role model for the rest of the City of Seattle. Natural resource management and reclamation now, will reduce long-term liability for environmental cleanup, protect our investments in the public open space infrastructure, and encourage participation in environmental management by our local businesses.

Policies

PI. Provide pocket parks at ½ mile intervals.

P2. Seek active involvement between community councils, neighborhoods, appropriate City departments and the Seattle School District. P3. **Transit-**connection waiting areas and routes thereto, should be safe and pleasant.

P4. Developments of one block or larger size shall include publicly accessible gathering areas or provide for such areas in a nearby location.

P5. Multi-family developments shall include rooftop and/or common area courts devoted to green open space and/or children's play areas.

P6. All parks and public gathering spaces shall be ADA accessible.

Strategy 1: Create and implement **master** plans for areas where more than one agency shares responsibility for adjacent or nearby public facilities.

Actions:

- A. Work with the Library Board, Department of Neighborhoods, Fire **Department** Department of Parks and Recreation, Police Department, Lake Community Center Advisory Board, **SeaTran**, Executive Services Department, North Dist Council, Lake City Community Council, Pinehurst Community Council, Cedar Park Community Council, 26th Avenue Alliance, Olympic Hills Ad Hoc Committee, Lake City Chamber of Commerce and United States Postal Serv to encourage all interested parties to support the goals, policies, strategies at actions of this plan for the Civic Core (see Section **2.1(1)2**).
- B. Work with the Seattle School District, Seattle Public Utilities, Department of Parks and Recreation, **SeaTran**, Meadowbrook Community Council, Meadowbrook Advisory Council, North District Council and all stakeholder an user groups to create an integrated plan for the Meadowbrook Commons.
- C. Coordinate plans and implementation so that open spaces, including transit routes and pedestrian corridors, are beautified and vegetated.

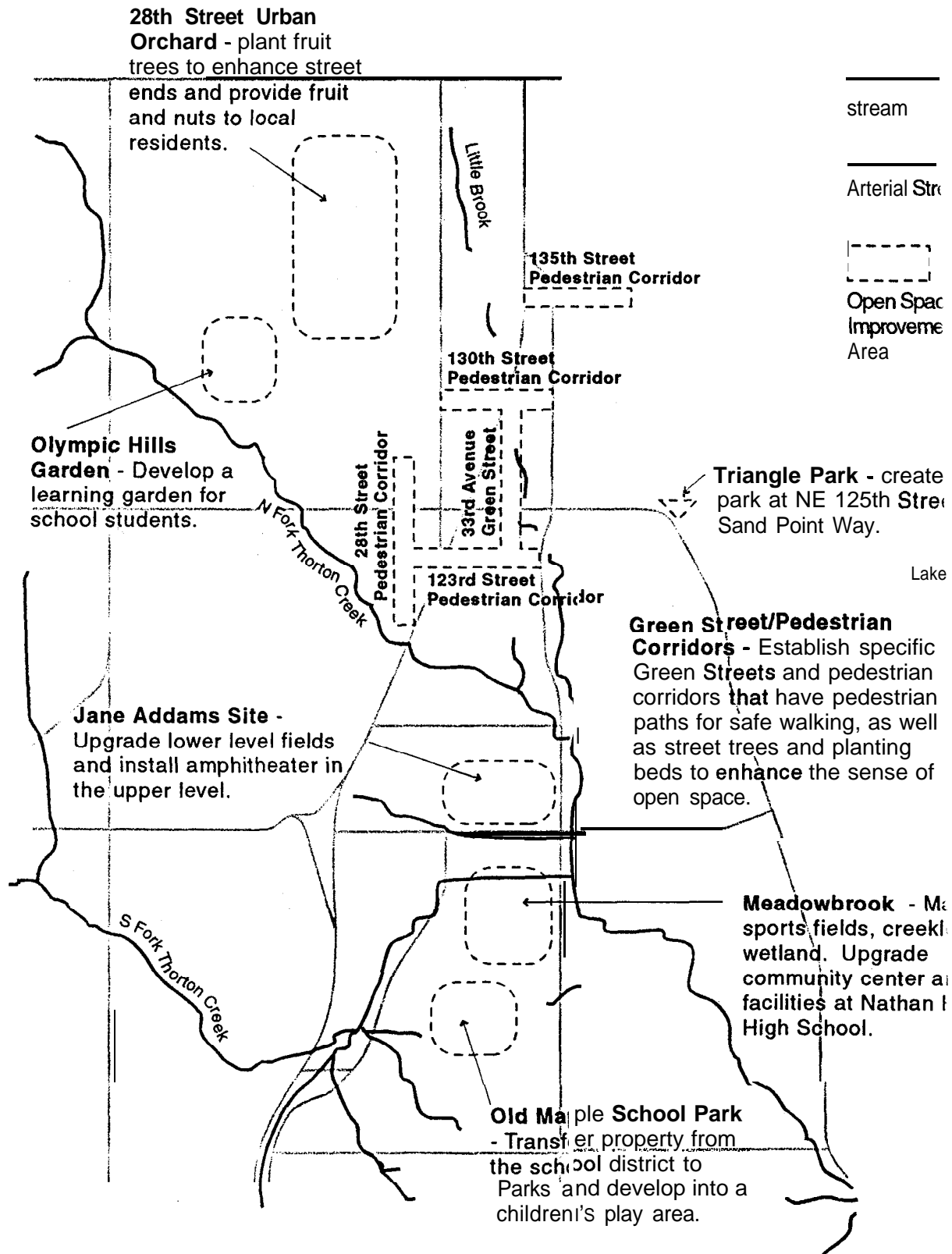
Strategy 2: Provide a wide variety of open space types and uses throughout the Planning Area. Examples include active and passive use parks, sports fields, children's play areas, special gardens, p-patches, wildlife viewing' areas, special conservation reserves, pocket parks, planted medians, plazas, street-end **pocke** parks and view spots, green streets and green street amenities, urban orchards, special pedestrian passages, and a large central open space associated with **the** Civic Core.

Actions:

- A. Negotiate with Seattle School District to permit sports field activities, commur activities and recreation on school grounds after school hours.
- B. Include, wherever appropriate, exercise stations and passive use areas **along** urban trails, pedestrian corridors, and in parks.
- C. Set up agreements to permit and encourage large parking lots to be used **aft** hours for court games such as basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball. P court markings and post signs.

- D. Set aside special gardens for botanical, educational, urban agriculture and habitat appreciation in appropriate locations. Possibilities include p-patch or garden sites associated with elementary schools, pocket parks, near multi-family housing or unused street rights of way and street ends.
- E. Assess existing sports facilities, children's play areas, and passive and active parks to determine what improvements or additional facilities are needed, and where new sites can be located; and, develop an implementation schedule.
- F. Provide pedestrian ways to natural open spaces where appropriate via publicly owned property with protective measures to assist enjoyment while preserving natural resources.
- G. Assess use of all publicly owned land for evaluation in renovating, maintaining or establishing park facilities.
- H. Develop a large, central park within the Civic Core and HUV area that includes a central recreational facility. Include at this facility, the following features: large hard-surfaced gathering area using pavers and/or stone and brick; a community Farmer's Market; a central main feature such as a sculpture, restored stream or re-created natural feature, possibly a small lake; an open air amphitheater; large grass and tree open area.
- I. Promote multiple uses of park properties, including environmental objectives, where appropriate and not harmful to natural resources.
- J. Develop active-use public parks that respond to a variety of users, especially teenagers. Validate the design and development of facilities by stakeholders.
- K. Develop more locations for organized sports. Increase use times and the quality of facilities on and around public sports fields.

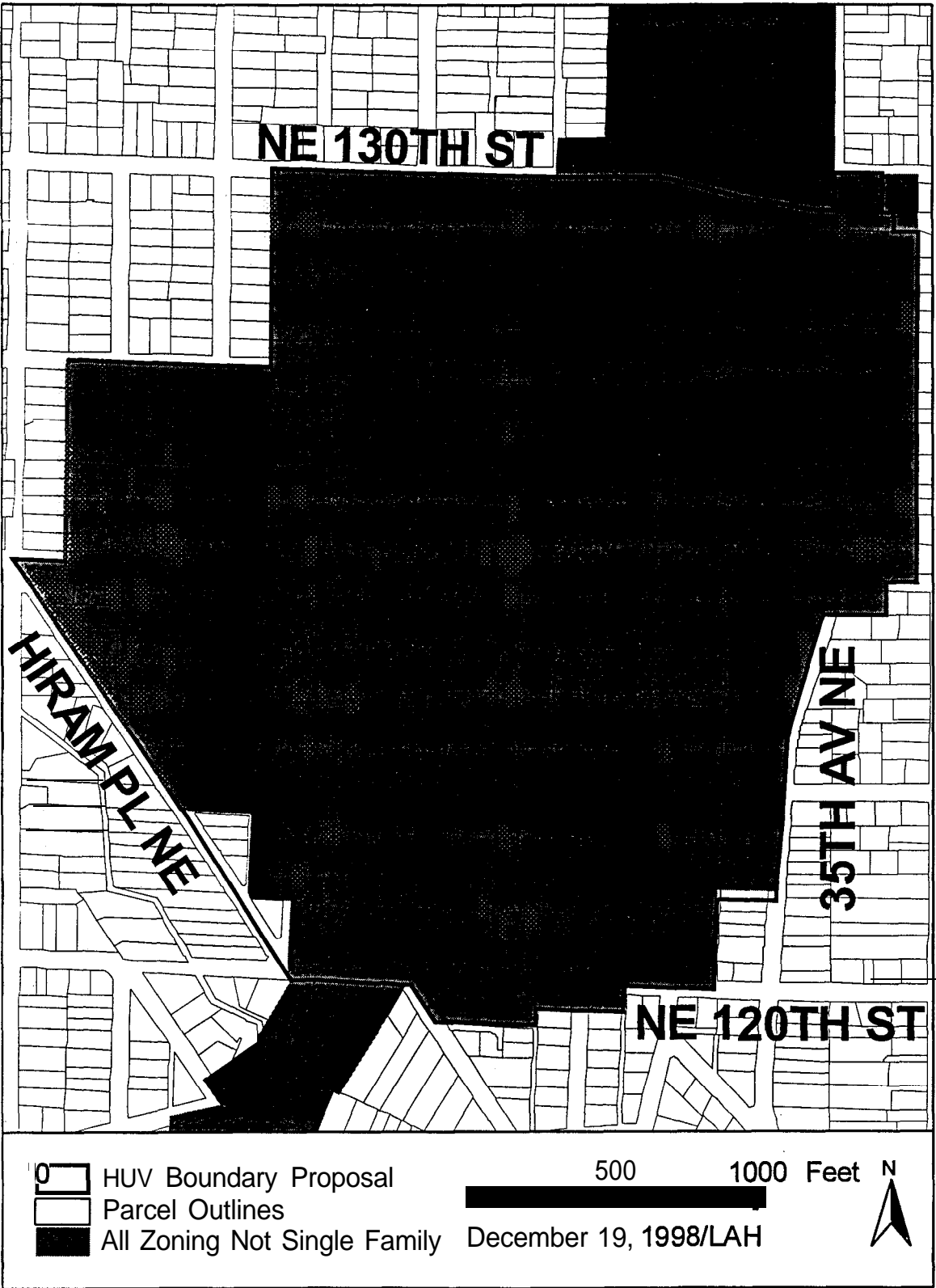
Proposed Open Space Improvements



See Appendix 4.6 for additional parks and open space improvements.

illustration by David Nemer

Illustration 13 - Proposed Hub Urban Village



Strategy 2: Make the HUV a pleasant place in which to live and do business and employ green amenities to develop a unique character for the HUV.

Actions:

- A. For all streets within the Hub Urban Village boundary, provide continuous, barrier-free standard sidewalks, street trees and sidewalk lighting.
- B. Promote the “walk to shop” concept by developing additional pedestrian **acce** routes from adjoining residential, business and public areas.
- C. Encourage a variety of small retail and service businesses in the HUV, as opposed to oversized warehouse-type stores.
- D. Attract and support businesses oriented to local household and commercial needs and also businesses that offer family-oriented activities and hours of operation.
- E. Create a Lake City Light Standard for design and placement of new lights wit the HUV. Incorporate human-scale, unique sidewalk lighting into street **lighti** within HUV boundaries.
- F. Develop a specific theme for the HUV to give an identity to the business **area** and support this identity with specific land use controls within the HUV.
- G. Encourage and support constructive, courteous, respectful relations and on-going communications between businesses and residential communities in a near to the HUV.

2.10 HOUSING DEMAND

Goal 10 - Provide opportunities for development of a mixture of high quality hous in the Hub Urban Village while protecting established residential areas from encroachment by and impacts of other uses.

Policies:

- P1. Development of non-single family parcels adjacent to single family zoning w provide for transitions or buffers adequate to protect the single-family area from adverse impacts.
- P2. Encourage innovative and affordable housing types responsive to market demand and neighborhood desires, including live/work, studio, and in-home business.
- P3. Zoning changes outside the Hub Urban Village will be limited to areas adjac to new monorail or other high-capacity transit stations.
- P4. Design Guidelines for new development shall include standards for crime prevention.
- P5.** Require that all multi-family housing units within the HUV be built in associat with a mixed use on the street level.

Strategy 1: Promote mixed-use development and increased housing opportunities in the HUV and at transit-related locations.

Actions:

- A. Seek to substitute Neighborhood Commercial/Residential zoning on parcels within the HUV that are now zoned Commercial.
- B. Allow rezoning of parcels adjacent to new Monorail or high-capacity transit stations to permit townhouse and other low-rise residential clusters.

Strategy 2: Ensure sufficient affordable housing to meet the need of Planning Area residents, including special-need and diverse populations such as senior citizens, dependent and independent families, young people, singles, new immigrant families, disabled individuals, low income households, and the displaced.

Actions:

- A. Encourage market rate housing developers to include within their developments subsidized housing and "Spartan" units to serve moderate and lower income families and individuals.
- B. Develop incentives for including affordable housing stock in new multi-family units.
- C. Prohibit the combination of adjacent single-family parcels into larger parcels for any purpose, to preserve affordable housing.
- D.
- E. Work with the Seattle Housing Authority to rebuild the Lake City Townhouses for families, and provide needed social programs for its residents and the community. Develop incentives for the preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of housing stock within affordable ranges.

Strategy 3: Work constructively and creatively with developers to increase the quality of new multi-family housing.

Actions:

- A. Actively utilize design review and other comment opportunities in the permitting process to affect the design of proposed new development projects
- B. Ensure that multi-family housing units provide organized parking, human-scale lighting, sidewalks and landscaped areas, including trees.
- C. Require large multi-family and mixed-use buildings to provide below-grade parking adequate for tenant needs.
- D. Use design guidelines concerning siting criteria, program space, and urban design considerations for development in the HUV.
- E. Develop incentives for owner-occupied multi-family housing, including condominiums and townhouses.

2.11 HUMAN SERVICES

Goal 11 - Provide public services adequate to serve current and future population

Public services are an integral part of any community. This plan aims at **supporti** and expanding the level, scope and quality of services provided to the **community**

Policies

PI. Land for capital facilities and other resources shall be acquired in **anticipation** population growth, based on valid demographic projections.

P2. Community reviews or performance audits of current services will be **conduct** periodically to assess effectiveness.

Strategy 1: Connect service providers to communication network; and, **encourag** coordination between compatible businesses.

Actions:

- A. Develop an awareness and knowledge in the community of what facilities, activities, services and businesses exist through publication and distribution o service provider's directory for the North District Neighborhoods' Planning Are
- B. Encourage co-location of senior and child day care facilities as a means to enhance the well being of both groups of citizenry.

Strategy 2: Work to expand or develop programs and services needed by a diverse population to deal with mental illness, addictive dependencies, as well as the need for day care for young and old, a job resource bank, language services. recycling, a central family service center and other needed social services.

Actions:

- A. Inventory available social services for young and senior citizenry throughout t Planning Area.
- B. Evaluate the need for additional social services for young and old citizenry.
- C. Provide needed facilities and services as identified. Suggestions include sen center(s) and teen center(s).
- D. Encourage development of social services based on the identified need throu use of incentive packages.
- E. Advertise and promote available programs offering assistance for overcoming dependencies, behavioral problems (such as anger and violence managemel and family aid.
- F. Improve services to non-English speaking citizens.
- G. Implement and/or promote literacy assistance from volunteers at the library.
- H. Develop local employment services, including a job bank.

- I. Provide collection bins for recycling of glass and plastics at visible, central locations.

Strategy 3: Provide youth with lawful, constructive activities.

Actions:

- A. Work with Meadowbrook Community Council, Meadowbrook Advisory Council, Nathan Hale High School, Ingraham High School, Department of Parks and Recreation and interested volunteers to renovate the Teen Center at Meadowbrook and develop effective programming.
- B. Connect the high school volunteer coordinators for student public service to the community communication network.
- C. Develop a Lake City job bank.
- D. Determine the best location(s) and develop a Teen Center(s) with after school and evening programs for youth.
- E. Develop a family-oriented skateboard park, modeled after the one in Ellensburg, with picnic benches, artwork and other public amenities, near the Civic Core.

2.12 DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

Goal 12 - Develop and implement design review guidelines to enable significant community influence over the quality, function and appearance of future development.

Policies:

- PI. Require Design Review for any commercial or multi-family development on parcels that are located anywhere in the Planning Area.
- P2. Protect existing riparian and wetland areas and re-establish interrupted systems.
- P3. Provide clear, safe separation of pedestrian and vehicular areas on all arterials and within the HUV.
- P4. Provide amenities along sidewalks which are attractive and safe.
- P5. Use environmental design techniques to reinforce crime prevention.
- P6. Require installation of curbs, gutters, sidewalks and sidewalk lighting as part of any new or renovated multi-family development.

Please see Appendix 4.8 for a list of potential design guidelines.

PART 3 -THE PLANNING PROCESS

3.1 BRIEF HISTORY OF LAKE CITY

Lake City began its urban history with the significant residential development that followed World War II. Annexed into the City of Seattle in the **mid-1950s**, the area had grown into a proud, identifiable and effective community by the 1960s. Its residents had built its own community center, obtained the first medical aid car in Seattle, established a successful annual Pioneer Days community celebration (before **SeaFair** became a city-wide event), and hosted yearly soap box derby competitions. In 1965, a modern new library was added to the community. And with adoption of the Gateway Plan in 1975, community spirit was at its peak.

However, several forces have shaped the Planning Area over time, including some major developments beyond its control or influence. Among them was the construction of Northgate shopping center in the late 1950's. Northgate, with its major department stores as well as its large collection of specialty shops, offered product variety and selection rivaling older shopping districts, even that of downtown Seattle. Northgate exerted a tremendously significant, long-term influence on Lake City's commercial core. Traffic and commercial opportunities were further drawn away from Lake City when Interstate 5 was completed through Seattle in the 1960's.

With the march of time also came demographic changes that slowly, but surely, began to alter the vitality and feel of the community. School enrollments declined in Seattle as the city's population aged and newer suburban areas attracted **young** families to new housing. This demographic shift also shrank the community's pool of resources and volunteers: as the World War II generation aged, their **baby-boom** children moved away, and the new arrivals didn't have the community roots (or time) to join civic and service organizations.

Meanwhile, State Highway 522 began increasingly to take on the role of a **major** 'freeway' serving auto commuters living in the suburbs to the north and **travelling** to their places of employment to the south of Lake City. Traffic volumes and congestion, especially in the Lake City business core, began to mushroom, adding further obstacles to successful reinvigoration of the commercial core. Dramatic physical evidence confirming the changing nature of the community occurred at this time, as two long-standing community entertainment venues-a bowling alley and a movie theatre-closed.

The sense of community that had enlivened and nourished Lake City during the years of its growth suffered yet another wound when the Seattle school district adopted a school-busing program in the late 1970s. Whereas the area's **schools** had long served as the focus of neighborhood identity and community activism, loss of a system of truly neighborhood schools greatly diminished their **contributions** to community well-being-and helped to drive many students to private schools further severing community and neighborhood connections.

During the past fifteen to twenty years, new commercial development in the Planning Area was largely confined to multi-family residential apartment buildings (especially in the northern reaches of the Planning Area, but also to the south of the Lake City business district), a handful of commercial office buildings near to the business core (mostly bank branches but also including the Washington Mutual office building) and the **QFC/Bartell's** strip shopping center. In the past ten years, commercial development has continued 'filling' properties along Lake City Way, as witnessed by the enlargement and reconstruction of the Fred Meyer store, new fast food outlets and the arrival of a Walgreen's drug store at **145th**.

The last time Lake City engaged in comprehensive planning was in 1975 and culminated in City Council adoption of the Gateway Plan, making many of that plan's goals and strategies into city policy. The Gateway Plan was a grass roots effort initiated by local business people to identify an assortment of improvements that would enhance Lake City's economic vitality. The Gateway Plan focused on a ten square block area in the central business district and was likely energized by an effort a few years earlier called LIFT (Lake City Improving For Tomorrow) that drew upon resources from the University of Washington's architecture school.

The Lake City business district was significantly improved by some of the projects identified in the Gateway Plan—sidewalks, mid-block pedestrian crossings, street trees, raised medians, traffic signal and intersection improvements and art work along Lake City Way in the central business district. Although the Gateway Plan began the process of improving Lake City, a darkening regional economic picture and insufficient local organization and resources for stewarding the other improvements identified in the Gateway Plan resulted in the plan's goals not being fully realized.

3.2 HISTORY AND PRINCIPLES OF THE PLANNING EFFORT

This planning effort initially grew out of an informal survey of merchants in the Lake City retail core area in late 1993 conducted by the North District Council. The survey revealed several significant problems (criminal activity, inadequate police response, lack of parking, homelessness, and deterioration of buildings) and led to the establishment of a steering committee of individuals who shared the goal of reversing the perceived decline of the Lake City area over the past decade. This group included residents, merchants, property owners, neighborhood activists and others, nearly all who brought affiliations with local civic institutions, local service organizations, local churches, and the Lake City Chamber of Commerce. They first met in February of 1994. The group became aware of potential effects of the upcoming Seattle Comprehensive Plan (which included a proposal that part of the North District be designated as a Hub Urban Village), and agreed to organize and prepare the community to meet and respond to the city's Comp Plan, as well as to focus attention on existing problems.

Meeting regularly through 1994, the steering committee felt strongly that input from the community should be gathered to help design a community-wide survey. A public meeting in June of 1994 included participants from the Thornton Creek

Alliance (a local environmental organization) and from the following neighborhoods: Cedar Park, Olympic Hills, Sacajawea, Victory Heights, Lake City, Meadowbrook and Pinehurst. Through August, September, and October of 1994, meetings focused on reviewing concerns and desires for the North District in eight topic areas: zoning, traffic, public safety, environmental quality, transportation, housing, public amenities, and infrastructure. The comments generated on these topics were used to design a survey to be distributed throughout the Planning Area.

During this time a set of guiding principles were adopted which have carried into present planning effort. Notably:

1. A conscious decision was made to attempt to foster a true grassroots planning effort. Specifically, it was decided not to follow the typical procedure of soliciting representatives from known organizations but instead to inform all residents, business and property owners in the Planning Area about the effort and invite participation from any interested individuals.
2. It was decided to keep the process as open and undefined as possible for as long as possible so that those coming on board later would have opportunities to influence the outcomes.
3. It was clear to the participants that the long range success of the hub urban village concept would require planning for the residential neighborhoods that would surround such a village in addition to planning for the area within the village. It was decided that the planning process must therefore also encompass and address the concerns of all neighborhoods within the Planning Area, not simply focus on the hub urban village.

Early in 1995, the Survey Drafting Committee began working to design a questionnaire to plumb the thoughts and perceptions of area residents on a variety of potential planning topics. (See Appendix 4.3). Issues identified in the previous 1993 informal survey and the 1994 meetings were included, and additional new issues were identified. The questionnaire asked recipients to identify two things they liked best about their neighborhoods as well as to identify two things they wished they could change in their neighborhood.

In addition to the mailed questionnaires, three community consultation sessions were held with people particularly hard to reach through surveys and other outreach efforts (low-income residents, renters, the elderly and/or disabled, and individuals for whom English is a second language). These consultations gathered input concerning community needs from the perspectives of these special-needs populations.

When Planning Area residents were asked, through a survey mailed community-wide, what two things they liked best about where they live, they listed neighborhood qualities such as single family residential character, views and rural feeling as most important.

When they were asked what two things they liked least about where they live, traffic conditions and walking and biking conditions were most frequently cited. Indeed.

“traffic” and “streets and sidewalks” were the only items for which over half the survey responses indicated dissatisfaction.

➤ Overall, their concerns were:

➤ Traffic impacts,

9 Streets and sidewalks,

9 Crime and public safety,

9 Having parks and open spaces close to residences, and

9 Appearance and image of the Lake City area.

They liked:

➤ The rural feeling and character of single-family neighborhoods,

9 Public facilities and public transportation, and

9 Sense of community within neighborhoods.

Transportation and “getting around” were the biggest problems in the Planning Area as identified by the survey. Improving the pedestrian environment and calming vehicular **traffic**, both in the business district and in the surrounding neighborhoods, were the paramount concerns. Additional issues needing attention are crime and public safety, shopping and services in Lake City, and providing more green and open space, especially in areas north of 125th Street.

3.3 VALIDATION PROCESS

In addition to the validation implicit in the process described in the preceding section, specific “validation” steps were taken and are scheduled. . For the purpose of gaining validation for the plan, its elements and recommendations, the planning effort undertook a variety of activities to present the plan and to solicit comments from the community for modifications or additions to the plan. The work products of issue and work groups were organized and combined with illustrative maps by the consultant team of EDL&A/ISD. The resulting early first draft was made available and/or presented at the following meetings:

Meadowbrook Community Council	June 9, 1998
Pinehurst Community Council	June 11, 1998
Planning Area Block Watch captains	June 13, 1998
Lake City Chamber of Commerce	June 18, 1998
North District Council	June 18, 1998
46th District Democrats	June 18, 1998
The Cedar Park Project	June 21, 1998
46th District Republicans	June 22, 1998
Olympic Hills Community	June 23, 1998
Lake City Community Center Board	June 24, 1998

Maple Leaf community Ice Cream Social	July 29, 1998
Victory Heights Neighborhood Picnic	August 23, 1998

Comment forms were provided to attendees at each of these venues. All comments received were logged and indexed (and are included as Appendix 4.0). Comments that expressed strong community sentiment and comments that add missing dimensions to sections of the draft plan were incorporated, through an iterative editing process, into subsequent drafts of the plan.

Three public validation meetings were scheduled. A circulation copy of the final draft plan was presented to the Lake City Chamber of Commerce at its mid-October luncheon meeting. A Circulation Summary that captured all the essential notion the plan in succinct, digestible form was prepared by the consultant team for a community-wide mailing. Included with the Circulation Summary were postage-paid return postcards allowing recipients to provide comment and reaction to the plan elements and its recommendations. Also included were instructions on how to obtain a complete copy of the circulation draft plan for detailed perusal. The Circulation Summary also prominently displayed notice to the community of public meetings scheduled for Saturday, November 21st, in which the plan was presented and discussed. Those meetings were scheduled for 9:30 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Community Center and 1:30 p.m. at the Lake City Community Center.

Comments mailed in, comments received from the mid-October Chamber of Commerce meeting and comments from the November public meetings will be carefully recorded and attached as Appendix 5.0. Comments that express strong community sentiment and comments that add missing dimensions to the draft plan will be incorporated into the draft forwarded to the Seattle City Council.